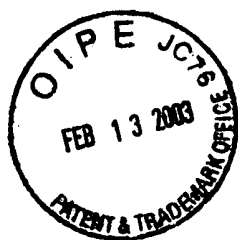


00862.022453

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Kenichi KOTOKU

Application No.: 09/960,694

Filed: September 24, 2001

For: EXPOSURE APPARATUS AND
SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE
MANUFACTURING METHOD

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Examiner: P. Hassanzadeh

Group Art Unit: 1763

February 13, 2003

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is a Response to Restriction Requirement in the above-identified application.

☒ No additional fee is required.


The fee has been calculated as shown below:

CLAIMS AS AMENDED						
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
TOTAL CLAIMS	16	MINUS	20	= 0	x \$9 \$18	\$0.00
INDEP. CLAIMS	4	MINUS	4	= 0	x \$42 \$84	\$0.00
Fee for Multiple Dependent claims \$140/\$280						—
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT						\$0.00

☐ °Verified Statement claiming small entity status is enclosed, if not filed previously.

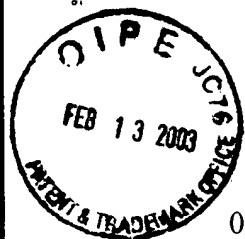
- ☐ A check in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed.
- ☐ Charge \$ ____ to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☒ Any prior general authorization to charge an issue fee under 37 CFR 1.18 to Deposit Account No. 06-1205 is hereby revoked. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required during the entire pendency of this application, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed.
- ☐ A check in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the fee for a ____ month extension is enclosed.
- ☐ A check in the amount of \$ ____ to cover the Information Disclosure Statement fee is enclosed.
- ☒ Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant
Steven E. Warner
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00862.022453

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#7
2/20/03
MLW

In re Application of:

Kenichi KOTOKU

Application No.: 09/960,694

Filed: September 24, 2001

For: EXPOSURE APPARATUS AND
SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE
MANUFACTURING METHOD

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Examiner: P. Hassanzadeh

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

Applicant respectfully traverses the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action dated January 13, 2003.

In the Office Action, the Examiner sets forth a restriction requirement among four groups of claims. Group I, claims 1-12, is drawn to an exposure apparatus, and is classified in class 156, subclass 345.5; Group II, claim 13 (and presumably, claim 14), is drawn to a method of installing a plurality of semiconductor manufacturing apparatus including an exposure apparatus, and is classified in class 438, subclass 689; Group III, claim 15, is drawn to an apparatus including a local area network and a gateway, and is

classified in class 118, subclass 719; and Group IV, claim 16, is drawn to a method of maintaining an exposure apparatus including preparing a database, and is classified in class 438, subclass 708.

The Examiner contends that the inventions of Groups I-IV are variously related as process and apparatus for its practice or as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination, and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification such that the searches are not coextensive, requiring separate examination. These contentions are respectfully traversed.

Applicant notes that the inventions of Groups I-IV are so closely related in the field of semiconductor manufacture, using an exposure apparatus, that a proper search of any of the claims would, of necessity, require a search of the others. Thus, it is submitted that all of the claims can be searched simultaneously, and that a duplicative search, with possibly inconsistent results, may occur if the restriction requirement is maintained.

Applicant further submits that any nominal burden placed upon the Examiner to search an additional subclass or two, necessary to determine the art relevant to Applicant's overall invention, is significantly outweighed by the public interest in not having to obtain and study several separate patents in order to have available all of the issued patent claims covering Applicant's invention. The alternative is to proceed with the filing of multiple applications, each consisting of generally the same disclosure, and each being subjected to essentially the same search, perhaps by different Examiners on different occasions. This places an unnecessary burden on both the Patent and Trademark Office and on Applicant.

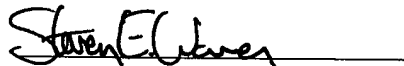
In the interest of economy, for the Office, for the public-at-large and for Applicant, reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement are requested.

Nevertheless, in order to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.143, Applicant provisionally elects, with traverse, to prosecute the invention of Group I, namely claims 1-12.

Favorable consideration and an early passage to issue are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


Attorney for Applicant
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